

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S.
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
CHAMBER COMMERCE BLDG.

S. H. CHESTER, } CO-ORDINATE SECRETARIES
J. O. REAVIS, }
H. F. WILLIAMS, EDITOR
S. H. CHESTER, TREASURER
PUBLICATIONS: { THE MISSIONARY
YEAR BOOK OF PRAYER

April, 1, 1907.

RECEIVED

APR 3 1907

MR. SPEER.

Mr. Robt. E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Brother:-

I send you the enclosed copy of letter from Rev. Russell Cecil, Richmond, Va. The same mail brings a number of letters from other people in Richmond, who are interested in this particular case, addressed to Mr. Reavis who is not at home today.

Whether or not there would be a question of comity in our opening a mission among the Mohammedans of Persia (which we would not think of doing of course without consulting your Board, and which I personally do not think we are in a financial condition just at present to do under any circumstances) there is certainly a question of comity in our starting such a mission distinctly based upon the plan of using American educated natives, which plan both your Board and our Committee have formally expressed our disapproval of in a general way. The leaflet which was issued by your Board some years ago has been adopted by our Committee in a somewhat brief ^{or} form. I enclose you a copy of it as we now have it in circulation.

I will be very much obliged if you will write me as briefly as you can consistently in making the matter intelligible to outside people, stating in what respects our opening up a mission to be manned and worked according to the ideas of Dr. Cecil's letter would bring confusion or detriment of any kind to your work in Persia.

I could easily say to these friends in Richmond just what I think about the whole matter, but in their present state of mind I do not think it expedient for me to do so until I have first

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Mr. R. E. Speer.

-2-

communicated with you in regard to it.

We are winding up our fiscal year today with a good advance over last year as to total receipts. Our outgo, however, has been unusually large, and I think we shall close with a little debt in bank.

Hastily and cordially yours,

C/T


Sec'y

APR 3 1907

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Richmond, Va. March 28, 1907.

(COPY)

Dear Dr. Chester:-

There is a Persian here, a Mr. Sayad, a licentiate of E. Hanover Presbytery and a graduate of Union Seminary(of whom perhaps you have heard) who is anxious to return to his own country as a Missionary to the Mohammedans. He is an unusually fine man and a number of good Presbyterians in Richmond are interested in sending him back. Some of them are writing to the Executive Committee about him. The Presbytery is working in harmony with the Executive Committee and of course we were not willing to send him out independently. There are three questions in regard to this matter which I wish you would ask the Committee to pass upon.

1. Would it be right for our Committee and consistent with its understanding with the Northern Board, to establish a mission in Persia among the Mohammedans. I understand that the Northern Board direct their efforts to the Nestorians. Or could we not establish a Mission there in some city not occupied by the Northern Board.

2. Would our Executive Committee be willing to establish a Mission of the kind named and put it in charge of native Persians who have been educated in this country at our own Seminaries and who are admirably fitted for their work? There are two there now, Yoman and Yohannon, and one here, Sayad, all members of the Southern Presbyterian Church who might be secured for this enterprise.

3. Would our Executive Committee be willing to establish such a mission if the support of these men was guaranteed? Yokannan is already supported by the Second Presbyterian Church of Petersburg, and the support of Sayad could be secured here in Richmond, and no doubt

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-2-

the support of Yoman would be guaranteed by some of our churches.
Indeed, I understand it is wholly or in part so guaranteed now.

Why should all of these men be forced to labor with
the Northern Board, if we can have a mission in Persia of our own?

I wish you would kindly ask the Executive Committee to
seriously consider the matter and let us know if such a course could
be adopted.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Russell Cecil.

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April 8th, 1907.

5

Rev. Arthur J. Brown,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

~~RECEIVED~~
APR 10 1907
DR. BROWN
10

Dear Brother:-

Yours received this morning.

We are in the same fix financially that your letter indicates your Board to be, and however much we might desire to launch out in the publishing business in Korea it is not worth while for us now to consume time on that subject as we would have no funds with which to carry out any plans which we might formulate.

I sent Mr. Speer a day or two ago a letter which I had written to Dr. Strickler in regard to an agitation which has been started in Richmond calling on us to open up a Mission to the Mohammedans in Persia, to be manned by certain Persians educated in this country. I am sending you also a copy of that letter. You can read between the lines that we do not wish under any consideration at present to open up any kind of a Mission in Persia. At the same time we wish to deal with these people so as not to throw a wet blanket on their zeal. What I want to get from you and Bro. Speer is a statement of the reasons why (I take it that there are plenty of good reasons why) our beginning a Mission in the same territory where you are at work, to be manned by American -educated Persians, whose support will, of course, be necessarily more expensive than the native Persians used in your work, would probably introduce confusion and trouble in the whole Presbyterian Mission work in Persia, and would not be conducive in the long run to the

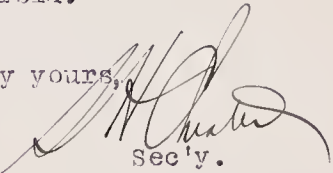
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-3 B

early evangelization of the Mohammedans of Persia.

Hastily and cordially yours,



Sec'y.

C O P Y.

Washville, Tenn.

April 2nd, 1907.

Rev. G. B. Strickler D. D.

Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:-

Your letter to Mr. Reavis in regard to Mr. Sayad came yesterday and I forwarded it to him at Statesville, N. C. where he expects to be today.

I wish to say just a word to you somewhat in confidence about this whole matter. Our committee has not lifted a finger to prevent Mr. Yonan and Mr. Vohannon from receiving the support which they are receiving from our church. Neither will they do so in the case of Mr. Sayad. No doubt all these are exceptional cases and ~~ix~~ in every sense of the word worthy men.

Why then do they not find satisfactory positions in the employ of the Northern Presbyterian Mission Board? You will find that question answered in the little pamphlet which I enclose which was issued several years ago by the Northern Board and it was recently ordered to be printed by our committee (somewhat abbreviated) as an expression of our views on the case. These men educated in this country simply cannot live in Persia contentedly on the salaries which are regarded as ample for the native ministers educated at Harpoot, Bayrut and other similar schools of the Northern Presbyterian Church in that part of the world. For them to be receiving two or three times as much support as is given to the ordinary native worker at once gives rise to discontent and jealousy on the part of all the others, and their presence in this way becomes a disturbing element and a hindrance to the work as conducted under its present auspices. While Mr. Yonan was in this country you will doubtless remember that he was very much appreciated by our people, and, to use a colloquial phrase, "lived on the fat of the land," being entertained in our best homes a great deal and being the recipient of many social attentions wherever he went. After four or five years of that kind of experience Mr. Yonan would be more than human if he could settle down contentedly to the life of the ordinary native minister in Persia.

Now we are not in any financial condition to open up a new Mission anywhere. We have been heavily in the bank throughout

the whole past year in trying to carry on our work and have been unable even with that to send the missionaries their salaries promptly and regularly. The buildings that are needed for the proper housing of our force and for setting up the schools that ought to be in operation would cost us not less than \$75,000 today. It seems to me that this is the need that should be attended to first, before we open a new Mission in another country.

Then when we once open a Mission the small amount required for the salaries of the native missionaries is just the beginning of what that Mission will cost. If they succeed in their work they must have equipment of every kind with which to carry it on. I have yet to see a Persian who gave any evidence of what we would call a good business man. To open up this new mission simply by putting money into the hands of these natives without any American missionary to advise with them about the business management of it would, it seems to me, be a most unwise proceeding from a business ~~xxxxxxx~~ standpoint.

It is always an ungracious thing to oppose one's self to other peoples zeal and enthusiasm for a good cause, whether that zeal and enthusiasm be according to knowledge or not.

Very cordially and fraternally,

Sec'y.

I send you this copy of letter I wrote to Strickler. I want you, if you will, to write me a letter that will help me to satisfy these Richmond people of the impracticability of this plan. There are some good women ^{April 20th, 1907.} interested in the matter, other will have to be dealt with firmly, but also delicately.

Rev. T. P. Strickler D. D.

Richmond, Va.

St. Chas

RECEIVED

APR 8 1907

MR. SPEER

Dear Brother:-

Your letter to Mr. Davis in regard to Mr.

Sayad came yesterday and I forwarded it to him at Statesville, N. C. where he expects to be today.

I wish to say just a word to you ^{adherent} in confidence about this whole matter. Our committee has not lifted a finger to prevent Mr. Yonan and Mr. Yohannon from receiving the support which they are receiving from our Church. Neither will they do so in the case of Mr. Sayad. No doubt all these are exceptional cases and in every sense of the word worthy men.

Why then do they not find satisfactory positions in the employ of the Northern Presbyterian Mission Board? You will find that question answered in the little pamphlet ^{which} I enclose which was issued several years ago by the Northern Board and ^{which} was recently ordered to be printed by our committee (so ^{what} abbreviated) as an expression of our views on the case. These men educated in this country simply cannot live in Persia contentedly on the salaries which are regarded as ample for the native ministers educated at Layport, Permit and other smaller schools of the Northern Presbyterian Church in that part of the world. For that to be receiving ten or three times as much support as is given to the ordinary native worker at once gives rise to discontent and jealousy on the part of all the others, and their presence in this way becomes a disturbing element and a hindrance to the work as con-

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stand point. I thought I would just throw out these hints and that possibly by a conversation with the friends in Richmond who are agitating this matter I might put you in a position to help them see the matter as we see it. It is always an ungracious thing to oppose one's-self to other peoples zeal and enthusiasm for a good cause, whether that zeal and enthusiasm be according to knowledge or not.

I am happy to report that we closed our fiscal year yesterday with total receipts of \$273,000, which was a gain of about \$16,000 over the receipts of last year.

Very cordially and fraternally yours,

Sec'y.

Our gain from living donors was about \$48,000.00

THE LOUISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

BROADWAY AT FIRST STREET
LOUISVILLE, KY.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 21, 1937

528

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

After our recent delightful conference in Washington to explore the possibilities of cooperation and union, as the member of our group designated to serve as secretary, I wrote out a memorandum of the conference, submitting the tentative draft both to Dr. Boyd and Dr. Stevenson for their approval or correction. After receiving their replies I am sending to you and to the other brethren who participated in that conference the enclosed copy for your records.

With kindest personal regards, and every good wish for the Christmas Season, I am

Cordially yours,

Frank H. Caldwell

Frank H. Caldwell,
President.

FHC:h

Believing in the essential oneness of the Church of Christ; remembering the historic lines that bind us to revered ancestors who witnessed valiantly for the truth as it is in Jesus and through whom has come to us a common heritage of Christian faith and doctrine; desiring to prove faithful in the custodianship of this inheritance, and aiming only for the glory of God in the higher advancement and wider extension of His kingdom on earth, we, the members of the Presbyterian Church U.S. and the United Presbyterian Church of North America, through our accredited representatives, do find a common standing ground in the following statements; and upon the basis of these fundamental truths we covenant to join our ecclesiastical bodies in organic union:

as amended 1903 by W.C.P. as follows
Creedal Statement

I

The doctrinal standards held in common by these two Churches, viz: the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and in addition the Confessional Statement of the United Presbyterian Church, shall be the doctrinal standards of the United Church.

II

The standards are to be interpreted in their natural and obvious meaning, and no one shall be authorized to teach or preach in the United Church who cannot give an unqualified assent to the doctrinal system contained in these Standards.

III

The United Church would bear testimony to-

(1) The evangelistic mission of the Church. We believe that the Gospel of the Son of God is the only hope of a sinful and dying world. We recognize in the command of Christ the urgent call to the evangelization of the world, and we bow before the imperative duty of obedience.

(2) The spiritual character of the Church's mission. This union is based on the statement of the Confession of Faith, that "Synods and councils are to handle or conclude nothing but that which is ecclesiastical; and are not to intermeddle with civil affairs, which concern the commonwealth, unless by way of humble petition, in cases extraordinary, or by way of advice for satisfaction of conscience, if they be thereunto required by the civil magistrate."

IV

In the ordinance of praise it is agreed that, while the Psalms of the Bible are accredited for permanent use, other songs or hymns true to the spirit and teaching of Scripture are properly employed. Each Church in the united body shall be allowed the same liberty which it now enjoys in the matter of congregational singing.

Constitution and Agencies

I

The Supreme Judicatory of the United Church shall be a General Assembly, the official title of which shall be "The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of the United States."

II

The General Assemblies of the two Churches, at the time of union, shall convene separately in the same city, and shall be constituted on the basis of the representation now obtaining in each Church respectively. The United Assembly thus constituted shall make the following provisions which shall remain in force until the adoption of a permanent Book of Church Order:

- (1) The basis of Presbyterial representation in the General Assembly.
- (2) Rules of procedure to govern the sessions of the Assembly.
- (3) A policy concerning the appointment of special Ad-Interim Committees.

III

The first United Assembly shall appoint a Commission, whose duty it shall be to prepare suitable manuscript of a permanent Book of Church Order and submit it to a subsequent Assembly to be over-tured to the constituent Presbyteries for their adoption.

The subordinate Courts of the Church shall continue to use provisionally the books of rules under which they have hitherto been governed.

With a view to facilitating the aforesaid merger, the first United Assembly shall appoint a special Committee on Merger, whose duty it shall be (1) To make a thorough study of all the Boards and Committees to be merged--their organization, aims and activities ; and (2) to devise ways and means for the complete amalgamation of corresponding agencies, such as the Board of Foreign Missions deriving from the United Presbyterian Church, and the Committee of Foreign Missions deriving from the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.

In effecting this merger, special care shall be taken to safeguard all property interests involved, to conserve the moral and spiritual values wrought out in the experience of the constituent denominations, and at the same time to set up organizations and determine policies such as will be conducive of the highest degree of effectiveness in the work of the Church.

Pending their final merger, the various Board and Committees of the Assembly shall function provisionally as at present, except that (1) kindred agencies shall confer with each other in order the better to unify their interests, co-ordinate their activities, and promote their respective causes by cooperative effort; and (2) they shall confer and cooperate with each other and with Assembly's Committee on Merger in all ways that may facilitate complete amalgamation.

Finally, recognizing that it is impossible to make specific provision for all problems that may arise, it is understood that these Churches enter the union in the spirit of mutual confidence and Christian love, and with a sole view to the honor of Christ and the extension of His Kingdom, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"... "till we all come in the unity of

the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"---
"from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love"

IV

The merger of the Executive Committees deriving from the Presbyterian Church in the U.S., and the Boards deriving from the United Presbyterian Church of North America, shall be brought about as expeditiously as possible, under the direction of the United Assembly.

A Memorandum
of the
Joint Conference of Committees
of the
Department of Church Cooperation and Union, Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
and
Permanent Committee on Cooperation and Union, Presbyterian Church, U.S.
Held in Hotel Washington, Washington, D.C., Dec. 9, 1937

Personnel of the conference:

The Rev. J. Ross Stevenson, D.D.
Dr. Robert E. Speer
The Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D., of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.;

The Rev. Chas. M. Boyd, D.D.
Judge P. F. Henderson
The Rev. Frank H. Caldwell, Ph.D., of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.

Without formal organization, but by common desire, Dr. J. Ross Stevenson served as chairman, and Dr. Frank H. Caldwell as secretary.

The conference was opened with prayer by Dr. Chas. M. Boyd.

Brief statements of fraternal greetings and outlines of the commissions from the respective agencies represented were followed by general discussion in which possibilities of cooperation and union were explored.

Among the possible plans of union explored, that which commended itself as being both most desirable and most likely to be acceptable to the two churches was a reunion which would contemplate the following features:

1. The standards common to both churches as the doctrinal basis of reunion.
2. A form of government essentially Presbyterian, but with the following modifications:
 - a. Territorial enlargement of synods by combination where such enlargement is mutually desired by contiguous synods.
 - b. Increase of the powers and functions of the synods in the reunited church.
 - c. Decrease of the size of the General Assembly, and the making of it to be a more truly representative body by determining representation on the basis of the number of communicant members in the respective presbyteries.

It was the concensus of the conference that other Presbyterian and

Reformed bodies should be communicated with before proceeding with further conferences in which a plan of union might be worked out in greater detail.

After a delicious luncheon generously provided by the committee of the U.S.A. Church, there was a further discussion of the topics under consideration.

The conference was closed with prayer by Dr. Lewis S. Mudge, after which there were mutual expressions of appreciation of the unity and fraternity of spirit which had prevailed in the conference at all times.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank H. Caldwell,
Secretary.

FHC:h